

EALING DEAN ALLOTMENTS SOCIETY  
MINUTES November 18 2019, 7.30pm, The Grosvenor

Present: Christina Fox, Penny Wark, Tana Scott, Richard Ashcroft, Dominic Small, Emma Payler-Lodge

The **minutes** of the previous meeting were agreed. Matters arising:

*CF to arrange Pathways quarterly meeting*

*CF to redesign allotment application form*

*CF to buy essential tools*

*CF to put Accident log book with First Aid kit (Jon W has gate postcodes)*

*RA to talk to Celia, and email completed R and R document to committee*

**Chair's report:**

Five plots rented out, six GC plots available.

Halloween: A huge thank you to everyone who helped out with the Halloween Pumpkin Trail. Although the weather was not on our side, we still had around 2000 visitors. We were thanked by lots of people as they left and they said that the rain wasn't enough to put them off coming. One told me her daughter had been pestering her all week – so there was no way they would be allowed to miss it.

I attended the Ealing Allotment Partnership meeting. Chris Welsh, Parks Operations Manager, for Ealing Council, has offered to share their risk assessments. His advice on practice matched EDAS existing practice.

In April 2019, Ealing Council declared a climate emergency and has a draft Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy. The timetable is:

- Working groups November 2019 – April 2020
- Consultation April/May 2020
- Council adoption July 2020

Feedback can be sent to Jo Mortensen [mortensenj@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:mortensenj@ealing.gov.uk).

Dom, Simon and I had a look at the hedgerow.

*CF to liaise with Chris Welsh re risk assessments; PW to liaise with Vanessa Hampton.*

*All committee members to read draft climate emergency strategy and come up with ideas on how we can be involved.*

**Maintenance**

DS confirmed as maintenance coordinator. Committee members to text DS with maintenance tasks. Tasks for volunteer day to be arranged on WhatsApp.

Volunteer days will not support new plot holders other than in exceptional circumstances.

Willow pollarding and reduction of trunk (at rear of 221/223) will cost £600. Lower height will enable future maintenance to be done by volunteers. Identified by tree surgeon as dangerous tree so will be referred to Pathways.

Walnut (229) thinning and lifting crown will cost £200.

TS has taped sycamore saplings for removal in hedgerow; most urgent on 161B. (Elms there to be left because should die back. If they survive, they can be propagated.)

DS, SC and CF have identified areas of hedgerow for work in 2019 and 2020.

Lime tree on 193 needs thinning.

*EP to hand over to DS.*

*EP to ensure no more wood chip until further notice.*

### **Secretary's report**

*PW to sort out committee@ email*

*PW to put Bee agreement on website*

### **Treasurer's report**

O is fine to be independent auditor again. JW to be back-up.

TS presented maintenance budget covering insurance, lawnmower service, hedgerow costs, toilet expenses and walnut tree surgery.

195, 186 and committee to share cost of 12 yard skip to enable plot clearance (and inevitable use by other plot holders.)

*PW to re do AGM timeline giving auditor 5 weeks.*

*CF to bill GC members.*

### **Communal plot**

*CF to invite Sim to present ideas to committee.*

*CF to pass details of robust gazebos to committee.*

### **Winter site inspection**

*CF, DS and PW to do inspection, 9.30am Saturday November 23.*

### **Health and safety**

Existing practice to continue, including making people aware of risks at beginning of volunteer days, and ensuring that volunteers understand how to use equipment.

*EP to write bullet points for opening volunteer days.*

### **Website/Social media**

Existing website and social media practice to continue.

### **Newsletter contents**

*PW to remind Plot holders about Christmas drinks in next volunteer day mailchimp.*

### **AOB**

232A to become 4 Gardening Club plots.

*Committee to stake out maintenance plot to establish whether room for polytunnel to store Halloween displays.*

**Next meeting: Monday December 9, 7.30pm, The Grosvenor**